

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-4, 7-11, 13-17, and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please amend 5, 6, 12, and 18 as set forth below in the Listing of Claims:

Listing of Claims:

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1-4. (canceled)

1 5. (currently amended) ~~The computer implemented method of claim 1~~ A computer implemented method comprising the steps of:

establishing a database of service providers for providing a predefined service;

receiving a purchase request for the predefined service from a buyer;

assigning the purchase request to a service provider in the database; and

returning a deliverable from the service provider to the buyer, wherein the step of

establishing a database of service providers for providing a predefined service includes:

adding ~~a service provider~~ the service provider to the database if the reputation of the service provider exceeds a predetermined threshold.

2 6. (currently amended) ~~The computer implemented method of claim 1~~ A computer implemented method comprising the steps of:

establishing a database of service providers for providing a predefined service;

receiving a purchase request for the predefined service from a buyer;

assigning the purchase request to a service provider in the database; and

returning a deliverable from the service provider to the buyer, wherein the step of  
establishing a database of service providers for providing a predefined service  
includes:  
adding a ~~service provider~~ the service provider to the database if the reputation  
of the service provider exceeds a predetermined threshold, in  
accordance with ratings of that the service provider.

7-11. (canceled)

3 12. (currently amended) ~~The computer implemented method of claim 1~~ A computer  
implemented method comprising the steps of:

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establishing a database of service providers for providing a predefined service;  
receiving a purchase request for the predefined service from a buyer;  
assigning the purchase request to a service provider in the database; and  
returning a deliverable from the service provider to the buyer, wherein the step of  
receiving a purchase request for the predefined service from a buyer includes:  
receiving a reputation threshold from a buyer used to determine potential  
service providers.

13-17. (canceled)

4 18. (currently amended) ~~The computer implemented method of claim 1~~ A computer  
implemented method comprising the steps of:

establishing a database of service providers for providing a predefined service;  
receiving a purchase request for the predefined service from a buyer;  
assigning the purchase request to a service provider in the database; and

returning a deliverable from the service provider to the buyer, wherein the step of

returning a deliverable from the service provider to the buyer includes:

adjusting a number of projects that the service provider is working on to

reflect that the service has been delivered to the buyer.

19. (canceled)

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